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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10,082,824	10 19 2001	Jeffry R. Meyer	ABHS-0169 B970532	3607

7590 12 11 2002

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

DONOVAN, LINCOLN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2832	

DATE MAILED: 12 11 2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/082,824	Meyer
	Examiner Lincoln Donovan	Art Unit 2832
		
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>Oct 15, 2002</u>		
2a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-23</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
Application Papers		
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).		
a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).		
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).		
a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.		
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.		
Attachment(s)		
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____		
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 8-11, 13-14, 16-18 and 20-21, as best understood in view of the rejection under 112 second paragraph, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bastle [US 4,008,876].

Bastle discloses a solenoid valve [figures 1-4] comprising:

- a rod-shaped armature [32] having an extension [figures 1-4];
- a shoulder extension [38] on the armature; and
- a biasing spring [36] mounted coaxially about the armature and engaging the shoulder.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6, as best understood in view of the rejection under 112 second paragraph, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bastle.

Bastle discloses the instant claimed invention except for the specific method steps.

It would have been obvious that the specific method steps claimed would have been inherent in the product structure.

5. Claims 3-4, 12, 19 and 23, as best understood in view of the rejection under 112 second paragraph, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bastle in view of Grunert et al. [US 4,713,639].

Bastle discloses the instant claimed invention except for a space between the armature end and the mechanism to be engaged.

Grunert et al. discloses a solenoid controlled armature engaging a mechanism with a space between the armature and member to be engaged [figure 1].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a space between the armature end and engagement piece in Bastle , as suggested by Grunert et al., for the purpose of providing an impact at engagement.

It would have been obvious that the specific method steps claimed would have been inherent in the product structure.

6. Claims 7, 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bastle, as applied to claims 1, 8 and 16, respectively, above and further in view of Harper et al. [US 4,062,052].

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Bastle discloses the instant claimed invention except for an additional mass formed with the armature.

Harper et al. discloses the armature being enlarged.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to enlarge the armature of Bastle, as suggested by Harper et al., for the purpose of avoiding unwanted motion.

It would have been obvious that the specific method steps claimed would have been inherent in the product structure.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 10-15-02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding rejections under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, applicant argues that the activation force necessary is that necessary to overcome forces caused by "stiction." Applicant has not claimed, nor has examiner considered, any specific force to determine the operating point other than a greater force than the maximum force necessary to activate the mechanism." Applicant has not defined what that "maximum force" is. The rejections under USC 112 have been withdrawn.

Regarding rejections under USC 102 and 103. Applicant argues that "Bastle does not disclose or suggest a delay member that delays the motion of the armature with a delay force to delay the movement of the armature from the first position to the second position until the armature exhibits an armature force greater than the maximum force necessary to activate the mechanism."

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Examiner disagrees. Bastle discloses a spring member [36] biasing the armature. The mechanism of Bastle is not going to be activated until the force applied by the armature against the spring is greater than the maximum force applied by the spring to the armature.”

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lincoln Donovan whose telephone number is (703) 308-3111.

The fax number for this Group is (703)-872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

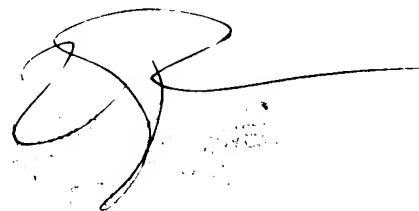
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December 8, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. GOLDBERG".